

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 00120 261710Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /087 W  
-----031453 261715Z /43

P R 261448Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6647  
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN  
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOTN 0120

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, SF  
SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET CHANGES

REF: CAPE TOWN 0085,

1. SUMMARY: THE EXPECTED SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET CHANGES WERE ANNOUNCED JANUARY 25. CONNIE MULDER, WHO ADDED BANTU ADMINISTRATION TO HIS PORTFOLIO, WAS THE MAJOR INDIVIDUAL GAINER. ALL IN ALL, THE CHANGES DO NOT ALTER THE POLITICAL BALANCE IN THE CABINET AND WILL COME AS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THOSE WHO HOPED FOR SIGNS OF A NEW DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER VORSTER ANNOUNCED HIS LONG-AWAITED CABINET RESHUFFLE ON THE EVENING OF JAN. 25. THE CHANGES MADE WERE NEITHER EXTENSIVE NOR UNEXPECTED, AND THEY DO NOT ALTER IN ANY SIGNIFICANT WAY THE DYNAMICS OF NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP. CONNIE MULDER, AS EXPECTED (REFTEL), WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE IMPORTANT  
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PAGE 02 CAPE T 00120 261710Z

DEPARTMENT OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT (THE NAME OF WHICH WILL SOON BE CHANGED TO ELIMINATE THE WORD "BANTU"). HE ALSO RETAINS HIS INFORMATION PORTFOLIO. MULDER'S OTHER FORMER PORTFOLIO, INTERIOR, WAS TRANSFERRED TO ALWYN SCHLEBUSCH, WHO NOW BECOMES MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, IMMIGRATION, AND INTERIOR. THE DEPARTMENT OF BANTU EDUCATION, RENAMED THE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, FALLS TO WILLEM CRUYWAGEN, FORMERLY A DEPUTY MINISTER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION. REPLACING CRUYWAGEN AS DEPUTY MINISTER IS A NEWCOMER TO THE SUB-CABINET, W.L. VOSLOO. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT F.W. DE KLERK WILL JOIN THE CABINET ON APRIL 1 AS MINISTER OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATION, FOLLOWING THE RETIREMENT OF THE CURRENT MINISTER, J.P. VAN DER SPUY.

3. IN THE RESHUFFLE CONNIE MULDER AND ALWYN SCHLEBUSCH ARE OBVIOUSLY THE PRIMARY GAINERS. DESPITE RUMORS THAT HIS INFLUENCE WAS SLIPPING, MULDER'S TAKEOVER OF BANTU ADMINISTRATION, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME RETAINING INFORMATION, STRENGTHENS AND CONFIRMS HIS POSITION AS ONE OF THE STRONGEST MEN IN THE CABINET. SOME OBSERVERS, HOWEVER, STILL BELIEVE MULDER COULD LOSE THE INFORMATION PORTFOLIO SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SCHLEBUSCH, WHO LAST FALL WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL PARTY IN THE ORANGE FREE STATE AND HAS NOW GAINED AN IMPORTANT PORTFOLIO, MUST BE SEEN AS A RISING STAR.

4. THE BALANCE BETWEEN CONSERVATIVE AND VERLIGTE FORCES IN THE CABINET HAS BEEN RETAINED BASICALLY UNCHANGED. THE NEW CABINET LINEUP WILL THUS COME AS A DISAPPOINTMENT TO THOSE WHO WERE EXPECTING OR HOPING FOR A SIGN IN

THESE APPOINTMENTS THAT SIGNIFICANT  
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PAGE 03 CAPE T 00120 261710Z

DEPARTURES WERE IN THE OFFING. VORSTER'S SELECTIONS, HOWEVER, ARE VERY MUCH IN CHARACTER WITH HIS PAST RECORD OF MAINTAINING A BALANCE IN HIS GOVERNMENT AIMED AT KEEPING THE PARTY FIRMLY TOGETHER. CONNIE MULDER, ALTHOUGH PRIMARILY A PRAGMATIST AND IN PRIVATE SOMETHING OF A VERLIGTE IN HIS POSITIONS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS, IS IN THE CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE PARTY. HE IS, HOWEVER, FAR LESS DOCTRINAIRE THAN M.C. BOTHA, AND HIS TAKEOVER IS LIKELY TO BRING ABOUT A CHANGE OF STYLE IF NOT MUCH CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE. CRUYWAGEN ALSO IS LIKELY TO PROVE LESS DOGMATIC THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, BUT IN OUR DEALINGS WITH HIM HE HAS SHOWN HIMSELF TO BE RIGID AND LARGELY UNCOMPROMISING. THE ARCH-CONSERVATIVE, ANDRIES TREURNICHT, WILL REMAIN AS DEPUTY MINISTER OF (BANTU) EDUCATION AND TRAINING. ALWYN SCHLEBUSCH IS BEST KNOWN AS A HARD-LINER ON QUESTIONS OF INTERNAL SECURITY, ALTHOUGH HE IS REPUTED TO BE MORE VERLIGTE IN OTHER AREAS. F.W. DE KLERK IS CONSIDERED A SOLID, IF NOT OUTSPOKEN, VERLIGTE, AND WILL BE THE FOURTH FULL CABINET MINISTER (TOGETHER WITH PIET KOORNHOF, PIK BOTHA, AND HENDRICK SCHOEMAN), WHO IS CLEARLY IN THIS CATEGORY. INTERESTINGLY, VORSTER NAMED NO NEW

ENGLISH-SPEAKER TO THE CABINET, DESPITE THE NP HAVING  
ATTRACTED SIGNIFICANT ENGLISH SUPPORT FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN THE NOVEMBER ELECTIONS.

MINISTER OF FINANCE

HORWOOD REMAINS THE ONLY ENGLISH-SPEAKER IN THE CABINET.  
NOT SURPRISINGLY, JIMMY KRUGER RETAINED HIS COMPLETE  
PORTFOLIO OF JUSTICE, POLICE AND PRISONS.

5.

LEAFIR OF THE PFP OPPOSITION COLIN EGLIN SUMMED  
IT UP APTLY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, HE SAID: THE  
CHANGES DID NOT APPEAR TO REDLECT ANY BASIC UNDERLYING  
SHIFT. NOR DID THEY INDICATE ANY IMAGINATIVE NEW  
INITIATIVE. "IT IS AN INTERESTING MERRY-GO-ROUND WHICH RELATES  
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PAGE 04 CAPE T 00120 261710Z

MORE CLOSELY TO THE INFIGHTING IN THE NATIONAL PARTY THAN TO  
THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRY."  
BOWDLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014